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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/536,795	12/30/2005	Klaus Messmer	100412.56347US	4510

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EXAMINER

EVANISKO, LESLIE J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2854

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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10/31/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/536,795	Applicant(s) MESSMER ET AL.	
	Examiner Leslie J. Evanisko	Art Unit 2854	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 July 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 19-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 21-36 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19, 20 and 37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 May 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>See Continuation Sheet</u> |

Continuation of Attachment(s) 6). Other: partial translations of JP 2002-254608 & JP 11-198354.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 21-36 have been withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on January 9, 2007.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 19-20 and 37 are objected to because of the following informalities:

With respect to claim 19, in line 5, it is suggested that the phrase "intermediate printing" be deleted since only a paper web was previously recited. Note a similar problem occurs in line 7 of claim 37.

Appropriate correction and/or clarification is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the

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various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 19-20 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goto (JP 2002-254608 A) in view of Yamada et al. (JP 11-198354 A).

With respect to claim 19, Goto teaches a method for cleaning a screen stencil 22 of a screen printing device 20 comprising the steps of:

- bringing a paper web 11 beneath the screen stencil 22 for an intermediate printing; and
- printing on the paper web by a squeegee 23 running over the screen stencil 22,

wherein the paper web 11 is different from a media 30 to be printed on in regular printing on the screen printing device. Particular attention is invited to Figures 1-4 and paragraphs [0018]-[0024] of the partial English language translation of Goto attached to this Office Action.

Goto fails to teach that before performing the intermediate printing, the bottom of the screen stencil is wetted with a cleaning agent. Yamada et al. teach wetting the bottom of the screen stencil 2 before the step of cleaning the screen stencil is well known in the art. See, in particular, Figure 4 and paragraphs [0012], [0031] of the partial

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English language translation of Yamada et al. attached to this Office Action. In view of this teaching, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a step of wetting the bottom of the screen stencil with cleaning agent as taught by Yamada et al. before performing the printing/cleaning step in the method of Goto to allow for more efficient and better cleaning and removal of the ink residue from the screen stencil.

With respect to claim 20, note Yamada et al. teach the wetting is performed by a rotating cylinder 48 that is immersed in cleaning agent 54 being brought into contact with the bottom of the screen stencil 2 in Figure 4 and paragraphs [0031]-[0034] of the partial English language translation.

With respect to claim 37, Goto teaches the method of cleaning a screen stencil including a step of bringing a paper web 11 beneath the screen stencil 22 for an intermediate printing as recited with the exception of wetting a bottom of the screen stencil with cleaning agent and bringing the paper web beneath the screen stencil for an intermediate printing while the cleaning agent is present on the bottom of the screen stencil. However, Yamada et al. teach wetting the bottom of the screen stencil 2 before the cleaning step is well known in the art. See, in particular, Figure 4 and paragraphs [0031]-[0034] of the partial English language translation of Yamada et al. attached to this Office Action. In view of this teaching, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a step of wetting the bottom of the screen stencil with cleaning agent as taught by Yamada et al. before performing the printing/cleaning step in the method of Goto to allow for more efficient and better cleaning and removal of the ink residue from the screen stencil when the intermediate print is performed.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 19-20 and 37 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Leslie J. Evanisko** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-2161**. The examiner can normally be reached on T-F 8:00 am-6:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Leslie J. Evanisko/
Leslie J. Evanisko
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2854

lje
October 27, 2007